

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant :	Kobi Iki et al.	Art Unit :	3739
Serial No. :	10/766,894	Examiner :	Michael F. Peffley
Filed :	January 30, 2004	Conf. No. :	4190
Title :	CARTILAGE TREATMENT PROBE		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicants agree that claims 1-17, 20-35, 37, 38, and 40-65 are allowable. Additionally, applicants agree that the features recited in the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance are not taught or suggested by the art of record, and that the relevant independent claims are distinguished from the cited prior art for at least the reasons stated in the Reasons for Allowance, which are sufficient for allowance of those claims. Applicants do not concede that the stated reasons are the only grounds for patentability of the allowed claims, that the limitations excluded from the Reasons for Allowance are taught or suggested by the art of record, or that all of the limitations are necessary for patentability of the allowed claims or other claims directed to the disclosed subject matter.

Furthermore, the claims may be patentable for other reasons. In addition, the dependent claims are allowable on their own merits, and are allowable on the basis of a sub-combination of the recited features of the dependent claims and their respective base claims.

These comments are being filed concurrently with the payment of the issue and publication fees. Please apply any additional charges or credits to our Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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